58340-3A
3/6/90

Washington LABOR MARKET

JOB SERVICE

Washington State
Employment Security

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Employment and Training
Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

January 1990

Highlights

Puff . . . Whoa! Let Me Catch My Breath!

The close of 1989 was as much a surprise as the year itself. In eight of the last ten years, the jobless rate rose between November and December. So, what should happen in December of 1989? . . . no change in the unemployment indicator. Not so surprising was the fact that the 5.7 percent jobless rate was marginally above the level recorded in December of 1988. After all, 1989 saw spotted owls nesting in old-growth timber, the fear of ALAR coursing through red delicious apples, nurses, retail clerks, and machinists on the picket lines . . . it is really a testament to the strength of the Washington economy that the rate was not higher.

Not unlike predicting rain, the over-the-year increase in joblessness could portend the long-awaited slowdown. But, is it steady precipitation or is it just drizzle? Is the economy building a second wind, or has it shifted to a lower plateau? Is it a soft landing, a touch-and-go, or a

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late arrival with lighter fuel tanks and exhausted, cranky passengers? The coming months should give us a much clearer picture.

Resident Civilian Labor Force
Employment and Unemployment in Washington State

	Dec 1989 (Prelim.)	Nov 1989 (Revised)	Dec 1988
Resident Civilian Labor Force	2,446,300	2,402,300	2.314,900
Employment	2,306,900	2,266,300	2,188,400
Unemployment	139,400	136,000	126,500
Unemployment Rate	5.7	5.7	5.5
National Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.2	5.0

LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

Winter Blahs???

The November-December period normally is the beginning of the winter-time doldrums for the Washington labor markets. Joblessness normally starts its year-end upswing, not to come back down until the March or April thaw. Other than the typical holiday-induced over-consumption, it is rare that there is enough underlying momentum to carry the economy into December.

Not Here!

But such was the case in 1989. Other than a short cold-snap in November, there was little in the way of adverse weather conditions to moderate out-door activities. In addition, the holiday season usually sees an influx of more part-time or temporary workers into the work force. As a result, the employment situation remained relatively strong.

The national unemployment rate, when seasonally adjusted, remained at 5.3 percent in December. But when not seasonally adjusted, as are Washington's figures, it fell one-tenth of a point to 5.1 percent.

Divergence In Data

Though not readily noticeable on a short-term basis, there has been an unusual divergence in the movement of the two major economic series – the Resident Civilian Labor Force household data, and the Non-agricultural Wage and Salary Employment establishment data. In the long term, this divergence is visible at both the state and national level.

These two series will always be different because of what they measure and how they make these measurements. The Resident Labor Force series is based on a survey of households, and counts the total labor force, employment, and unemployment by place of residence. The Wage and Salary Employment series is based on a survey of business establishments and counts employment, hours worked, and average hourly earnings by place of work.

The Resident Labor Force figures count everyone, sixteen years old and over, who is either working or looking for work.

The Wage and Salary Employment figures count all wage and salary jobs at nonagricultural businesses.

The wage and salary figures should be smaller than total resident employment because they do not count agricultural workers, proprietors, self-employed, members of the armed forces and private household employees.

But even counting all these workers, there will still be a difference because of residency adjustment and multiple jobholders.

Residency adjustment will account for those who live in one labor market area and work in another. Someone who lived in Seattle and worked in Tacoma would be counted in the Tacoma Wage and Salary employment series and in the Seattle Resident Employment series.

Moonlighting Muddies Measurements

Multiple jobholders are more of a concern because they can muddy the analysis of job growth. A worker holding two jobs is counted twice in the Wage and Salary Employment figures, and once in the Resident Employment figures, and that is the way it should be. But if the incidence of multiple jobholding were to take a sudden

jump, then the employment figures from both series would appear to be sending mixed signals. Wage and Salary jobs would grow at a level much faster than resident employment. Such has been the case recently at the national level.

Between 1985 and 1989, the share of workers holding more than one job has jumped from 5.4 percent to 6.2 percent of all resident workers. What this means is that almost 1.5 million jobs created nationwide since 1985 did not go to new workers but to existing workers.

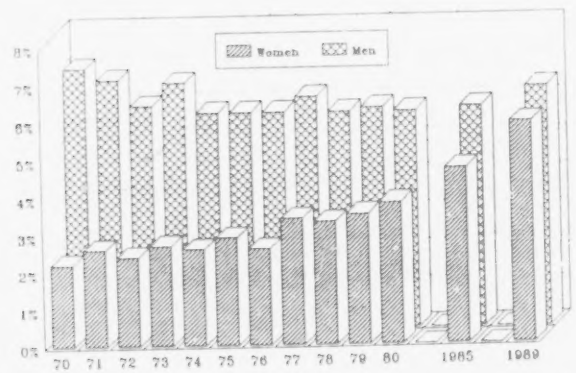
Women Holding More Jobs

While men have had the highest proportion of multiple jobholders, women have recorded the greatest increase over the past 20 years. In 1970 women represented only 15.7 percent of all multiple jobholders. In 1989, their ratio had increased to 43 percent.

Women's incidence of multiple jobholding far surpasses their increase in labor force participation. As a matter of fact, since 1985, of the 1.5 million new multiple jobholders, 61.3 percent were women.

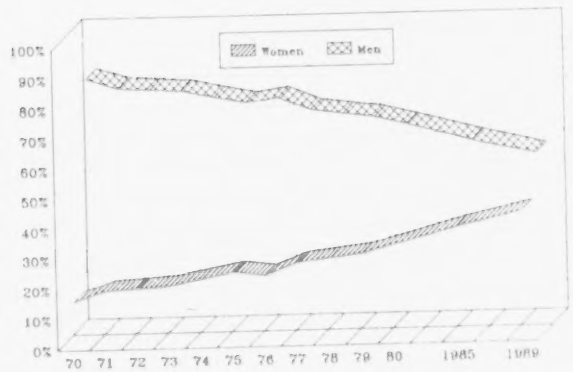
More information on multiple jobholders is available from the U.S. Department of Labor at (202) 523-1913.

U.S. Multiple Jobholding Rate of Men and Women



Source: US Department of Labor

Share of U.S. Multiple Jobholders by Sex



Source: US Department of Labor

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

Ups and Downs

Off-setting movements were the-name-of-the-game this last December, which is pretty typical. There were nearly as many upturns as downturns resulting in a positive gain of 1,200 nonfarm jobs. Though this seems meager compared to earlier months, it represented quite a strong gain for December. The year-over-year increase measured 5.3 percent or 108,400 workers—the largest spread for December since 1978.

Christmas as Usual

The largest November-December gain was in . . . you guessed it . . . retail trade. Despite all the pessimistic forecasts for holiday sales, retailers appeared to be taking no chances. The 6,300 increase in jobs was right in line with normal holiday season gains. It is anyone's guess as to whether stores were able to maintain sales volumes without discounting away their profit margins.

Retailers employed 5.4 percent more workers in December 1989 than in December 1988. This is just a notch above the nonfarm growth rate overall.

Health Sustains Growth

Services, particularly health and business services, has been the main competitor with trade in providing job growth. December was unusual in that health services provided all the job growth over the month. At a time when the words *slowdown* and *health services* are rarely apart, and at a time when business services has been growing at twice the nonfarm average, this deserves closer scrutiny.

Scant Skiing

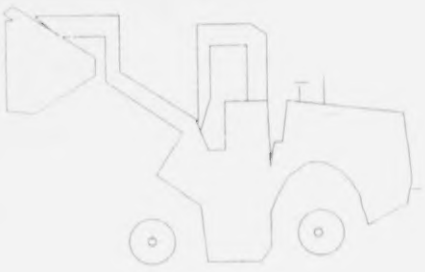
One of the biggest concerns has come from recreational services, especially from ski areas. November did see some early snow-fall, but unseasonably warm best describes the month of December. Area operators say they normally expect 25 percent of their revenues to be in the till before Christmas. Save for Mount Baker, no Washington ski areas had enough snow to operate in December.

Government Slowdown

Government payrolls took their typical drop in December. Support personnel at schools, colleges and universities bore the brunt of the between-session slowdown (teachers are considered employed year-round). Other public employees not needed during the winter season are those tending parks and other public recreation areas.

Total government employment increased 3.4 percent over the year. Though this was much less than the 5.3 percent nonfarm average, it was in line with total population growth and the demand for educational services.

Fair Weather = Employment Highs



For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. Isaac Newton was not contemplating economics but rather physics when this law was founded. But in some instances it is applicable to labor market dynamics. Though the weather was lousy for ski areas, it was so moderate as to allow other outdoor activities to continue at levels atypical for this time of year. Construction payrolls were still at record levels in December.

There has not been a December in memory when construction employment did not fall, and this December was no exception. But this December was a record, even higher than December 1979 (during the zenith of WPPSS activity). Construction payrolls were 12.5 percent above the December 1988 level.

Speaking of outdoor activities, lumber and wood products employment was still rather vibrant for a December. Though employment fell 100 jobs, no December turndown has ever been so modest. Mild weather and relatively low mortgage interest rates (just under 10 percent) kept this sector moving during a traditionally slow period.

Aerospace Shifts Gears

Perhaps the ultimate indicator of employment growth is the aerospace industry. Over the past several years, monthly gains have averaged 1,000 new workers. But, December payrolls rose only by 100. On top of that, lay-

offs from The Boeing Everett 747 facility were announced.

The question on everyone's mind . . . Is this the end of the aerospace boom? Probably. But it should not portend the end of economic expansion in Washington, just slow it down. After all, how long could Boeing continue to add workers? Also, this lay-off is not related to a slowdown in production, but rather an increase in worker productivity. In addition, workers are required to receive 60 days notice; no doubt part of that time will be spent lining up other work. And finally, local employers who have had to compete with Boeing for skilled workers have had little success. As a result, there should be a large pool of employers ready and willing to hire experienced workers.

Moving on to the nondurable side of manufacturing, Food and kindred products employment took a typical tumble. December is normally the period for putting a final wrap on the fall harvest. Even though payrolls dropped 2,600, December levels were 2,000 higher than December of 1988.

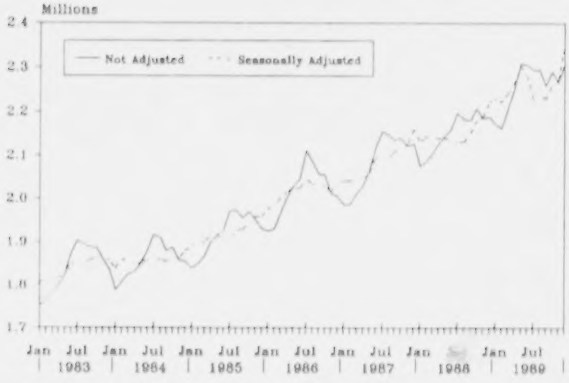
AREA TRENDS

The jobless rate remained at 5.7 percent between November and December and gained two tenths of a point over the year. Metropolitan areas came in at 5.1 percent, also unchanged from November. Regions dependent on logging and lumber reported a modest one tenth of a point increase to reach 9.3 percent, well above the 8.6 percent of December 1988. Eastern Washington, much more agriculturally focused, jumped from 8.7 percent to 9.1 percent. Western Washington, in the meantime, actually declined one tenth to reach 4.8 percent.

The employment situation varied widely among the myriad labor markets. Whitman County posted the lowest rate (as usual), coming in at 2.2 percent. In this past year Columbia County had the dubious distinction of overtaking Skamania to record the highest jobless rates; the December figure was 18.2 percent.

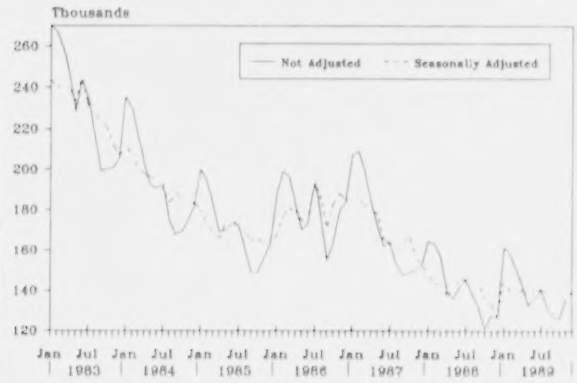
Small labor market areas tend to experience the widest swings in employment and unemployment. If an additional 50 workers lost their jobs in Seattle, it would hardly cause a blip in the unemployment rate. But if an additional 50 workers lose their jobs in Garfield County, as happened in December, the unemployment rate can more than double.

State Total Resident Employment
Jan 1983–Dec 1989



SOURCE: Employment Security Department

State Total Resident Unemployment
Jan 1983–Dec 1989



SOURCE: Employment Security Department

INDUSTRY NOTES

Military Maneuvers

The so-called Peace Dividend will have an impact on Washington state. Already, cuts have been slated for a number of military installations. The latest has been the announced deactivation of the 25th Air Division Headquarters at McChord Air Force Base. This unit managed all air-defense units in the western United States.

Though this closure only represents 20 military and 9 civilian jobs, it is the second deactivation of a military unit in the Tacoma area in the past year. The 318th Fighter Interceptor Squadron out of McChord (564 jobs) was also deactivated late last year. Aircraft (F-15 Eagle interceptors) were transferred to the Oregon Air National Guard. The Air Force plan is to shift more air-defense responsibilities to the Air National Guard.

Housing is Hot

In-migration caused a big jump in demand for homes in 1989. So much so that the Seattle-Tacoma area lead the nation in home price increases. The National Association of Realtors reported that the median price of homes sold in Seattle was $115,100 as of the fourth quarter of 1989. That is a 25.2 percent gain over the fourth quarter of 1988 – the largest percent gain of the 83 U.S. housing markets in the survey.

The Seattle-Tacoma area is still not near as expensive as other coastal housing markets. Honolulu was the most expensive with the median home price being $280,900. Other high priced markets on the west coast were San Francisco ($260,600), Orange County ($247,900) and Los Angeles ($217,000). The highest priced region on the east coast was Boston with a median price of $183,600.

The Midwest had the lowest housing prices. In Peoria, Illinois, the median price was just $47,200.

Spokane home prices, at $53,900, were less than half of the Seattle-Tacoma average.

Demand for housing also extends to apartments, particularly to sales of apartments. According to Cain & Scott Inc., close to $500 million in apartment sales took place in 1989. The hot local housing market, low vacancy rates, and declining returns in other markets makes the Seattle-Everett-Tacoma region ripe for investment.

Average rents increased 8.4 percent to $429 a month in 1989. The vacancy rate fell to 3.8 percent, indicative of the strong demand. As a result, it is estimated that 20,000 new apartment units will be built in King, Snohomish and Pierce counties in 1990.

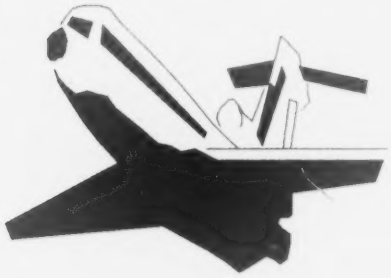
Heavy Traffic

The Port of Tacoma had a record year in 1989. More than 17.1 million short tons of cargo passed through the port, valued at an estimated $25 billion. This represented an increase over 1988 of 12 percent. The number of containers handled by the port rose 18 percent to 924,974 placing the port at 6th in the nation and 20th in the world.

Commodities in which exports increased markedly were:

- Forest Products, up 27 percent (although actual log exports fell 2 percent).
- Frozen fish, up 81 percent.
- Vegetable products, up more than 50 percent.
- Heavy equipment, up 600 percent.
- Industrial machinery, up 100 percent.
- Chemicals, up 52 percent.

Boeing Plans 777



Boeing has announced a go-ahead with plans for a new generation 777 aircraft. Many airlines, including United, Japan Air Lines, and British Airways, have voiced interest in the airliner. However, until Boeing receives some firm orders they will not officially launch the plane.

The 777 airliner is to compete directly with the AirBus 330, and fill the size slot between the 767 and 747. The plane would have two aisles (two seats wider than the 767), with seating for 350 in two classes. It would have an initial range of 4,200 nautical miles with a 5,500 mile intercontinental version available later. Price is expected to be just under $100 million.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

Slow Growth

Gross National Product (GNP) was sluggish in the fourth quarter of 1989. Latest figures from the U.S. Department of Commerce reported that growth was a meager 0.5 percent. The economy had grown at a 3.0 percent annual rate in the third quarter and 2.9 percent for all of 1989, down from the exemplary 4.4 percent growth in 1988.

But Still Some Life

Such a slow rate of growth brought forth the doom-and-gloomers claiming that the recession is nigh. A more moderate interpretation points out severe weather throughout most of the nation (particularly Hurricane Hugo), the San Francisco earthquake, and even the Boeing strike put temporary dampers on production.

Another Department of Commerce report gives credence to the moderate view of the fourth quarter GNP figures. The Index of Leading Economic Indicators rose 0.8 percent in December. Many of the index components were positive: stock prices, unfilled factory orders, new orders for capital equipment, money supply and building permits.

Federal Reserve figures on industrial production and factory operating rate also rose in December. Industrial production was up 0.4 percent. However, most of the gains can be tied to increased utility output because of the cold weather and resumption of aircraft production following the Boeing strike. The operating rate for nations factories, mines and utilities rose to 83.3 percent of capacity, up two-tenths of a percent from November.

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.4 percent in December, pushing the inflation rate to 4.6 percent for all of 1989. Household fuel prices jumped 3.5 percent for the year while energy prices overall grew 5.1 percent. Food prices were up 5.6 percent in 1989 – the highest in nine years. Increasing medical costs made all other sectors pale in comparison, posting an annual gain of 8.5 percent.

At the wholesale level, the Producer Price Index rose 0.7 percent for December and 4.8 percent for the year. This index has been trending upwards since 1987 when wholesale prices rose only 2.2 percent. Much of the blame can be tied to rising energy prices. For the year, fuel oil climbed 33.9 percent, the largest jump since 1979.

Consumer Price Index

(All items, Urban Consumers, 1982–1984 = 100)

	Indexes			% Change From	
U.S. Avg	Dec 89	Nov 89	Dec 88	Nov 89	Dec 88
	126.1	125.9	120.5	0.2%	4.6%
Seattle†	Jan-Jun 1989	Jan-Jun 1988		Jan-J. 1988	
	116.7	111.9		4.3%	

†The index for Seattle reflects prices in King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers in Washington State, Place of Work[1]

(In Thousands) (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Industry	Dec 1989 (Prel)	Nov 1989 (Rev)	Dec 1988 (Rev)	Nov 1988 (Rev)	Numeric Change: Nov 1989 to Dec 1989	Numeric Change: Dec 1988 to Dec 1989
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY	2,089.9	2,088.7	1,984.5	1,986.2	1.2	105.4
MANUFACTURING	363.0	365.6	345.6	347.7	-2.6	17.4
Durable Goods	262.7	263.0	249.1	248.2	-0.3	13.6
Lumber & Wood Products	42.0	42.1	41.2	41.9	-0.1	0.8
Furniture & Fixtures	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.0
Stone, Clay & Glass	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.6	-0.1	0.1
Primary Metals	12.7	12.9	13.4	13.3	-0.2	-0.7
Aluminum	8.6	8.7	9.1	9.0	-0.1	-0.5
Fabricated Metals	11.3	11.5	11.0	11.2	-0.2	0.3
Machinery	34.4	34.2	32.8	32.5	0.2	1.6
Machinery (Except Electric)	19.7	19.6	18.8	18.6	0.1	0.9
Electrical Equipment	14.7	14.6	14.0	13.9	0.1	0.7
Transportation Equipment	132.5	132.5	121.5	120.1	0.0	11.0
Aerospace	116.6	116.5	106.1	105.1	0.1	10.5
Other Transportation Equipment	15.9	16.0	15.4	15.0	-0.1	0.5
Instruments & Related	11.8	11.8	11.7	11.6	0.0	0.1
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.2	6.1	5.8	5.7	0.1	0.4
Nondurable Goods	100.3	102.6	96.5	99.5	-2.3	3.8
Food & Kindred Products	33.4	36.0	31.4	34.6	-2.6	2.0
Canned & Preserved Food	11.7	14.5	10.4	13.6	-2.8	1.3
Apparel & Allied Products	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	-0.1	0.0
Paper & Allied Products	17.6	17.2	17.1	16.9	0.4	0.5
Printing & Publishing	22.4	22.4	21.9	21.9	0.0	0.5
Chemicals & Allied Products	10.5	10.4	10.1	10.1	0.1	0.4
Other Nondurable Goods[2]	10.1	10.2	9.7	9.7	-0.1	0.4
MINING & QUARRYING	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	0.0	0.0
CONSTRUCTION	108.7	110.7	96.6	99.8	-2.0	12.1
TRANSP.,COMM. & UTIL	107.6	108.3	102.9	103.4	-0.7	4.7
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	520.6	514.5	495.5	489.4	6.1	25.1
Wholesale Trade	122.9	123.1	118.1	118.3	-0.2	4.8
Retail Trade	397.7	391.4	377.4	371.1	6.3	20.3
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	117.1	116.1	111.7	111.1	1.0	5.4
SERVICES	482.0	480.2	454.0	453.1	1.8	28.0
Health Services	142.2	140.4	136.0	135.1	1.8	6.2
GOVERNMENT	387.5	389.9	374.8	378.2	-2.4	12.7
Federal	73.2	73.4	71.5	71.4	-0.2	1.7
State & Local	314.3	316.5	303.3	306.8	-2.2	11.0
Education	169.7	171.0	164.5	166.9	-1.3	5.2
LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

[1]Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

[2]Includes textile mill products, rubber and miscellaneous plastic products, petroleum refining and related products, and leather products.

Washington State
Employment Security Department
Labor Market and Economic Analysis

Resident Labor Force and Employment in Washington State and Labor Market Areas

Date: 1/24/90
Benchmark: 1988

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	December 1989 Preliminary†				November 1989 Revised†				December 1988 Revised†			
	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unem-ployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unem-ployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unem-ployment	Unemp. Rate
Washington State Total	2,446,300	2,306,900	139,400	5.7	2,402,300	2,266,300	136,000	5.7	2,314,900	2,188,400	126,500	5.5
Bellingham MSA	61,800	58,000	3,800	6.1	60,700	57,100	3,600	5.9	58,400	54,600	3,800	6.5
Bremerton MSA	78,700	75,300	3,400	4.3	77,600	74,000	3,600	4.6	75,900	72,600	3,300	4.3
Olympia MSA	82,400	78,000	4,400	5.3	79,300	74,600	4,700	5.9	76,200	72,000	4,200	5.5
Seattle PMSA	1,121,200	1,076,800	44,400	4.0	1,096,300	1,052,800	43,500	4.0	1,053,700	1,012,000	41,700	4.0
King County‡	886,700	852,600	34,100	3.8	867,400	833,600	33,800	3.9	833,000	801,300	31,700	3.8
Snohomish County‡	234,600	224,200	10,400	4.4	228,900	219,200	9,700	4.2	220,800	210,700	10,100	4.6
Spokane MSA	172,800	162,100	10,700	6.2	169,000	159,100	9,900	5.9	168,400	159,200	9,200	5.5
Tacoma PMSA	256,500	243,700	12,800	5.0	256,500	243,000	13,500	5.3	245,600	232,700	12,900	5.3
Tri-Cities MSA	68,400	62,000	6,400	9.4	67,000	60,800	6,200	9.3	64,000	58,300	5,700	8.9
Benton County‡	52,100	47,900	4,200	8.1	50,900	46,900	4,000	7.9	48,900	45,100	3,800	7.8
Franklin County‡	16,300	14,100	2,200	13.5	15,900	13,800	2,100	13.2	15,200	13,300	1,900	12.5
Vancouver PMSA	122,000	115,600	6,400	5.2	119,700	113,500	6,200	5.2	114,500	108,500	6,000	5.2
Yakima MSA	94,100	80,900	13,200	14.0	92,100	79,500	12,600	13.7	87,900	77,700	10,200	11.6
Adams	6,070	5,210	860	14.2	6,140	5,270	870	14.2	5,790	4,920	870	15.0
Asotin	9,730	9,290	440	4.5	9,520	9,090	430	4.5	9,280	8,870	410	4.4
Clallam	22,930	20,970	1,960	8.5	22,890	20,750	2,140	9.3	22,620	20,760	1,860	8.2
Columbia	1,540	1,260	280	18.2	1,510	1,260	250	16.6	1,590	1,340	250	15.7
Cowlitz	36,620	33,830	2,790	7.6	35,570	32,650	2,920	8.2	35,440	33,000	2,440	6.9
Ferry	3,160	2,830	330	10.4	3,040	2,720	320	10.5	2,700	2,440	260	9.6
Garfield	1,040	950	90	8.7	970	930	40	4.1	1,020	980	40	3.9
Grant	23,400	20,520	2,880	12.3	24,110	21,330	2,780	11.5	22,220	19,880	2,340	10.5
Grays Harbor	26,300	23,310	2,990	11.4	25,790	22,800	2,990	11.6	24,870	22,340	2,530	10.2
Island	20,680	19,770	910	4.4	20,280	19,410	870	4.3	19,310	18,520	790	4.1
Jefferson	8,650	8,090	560	6.5	8,590	8,050	540	6.3	8,170	7,710	460	5.6
Kittitas	11,550	10,400	1,150	10.0	11,820	10,830	990	8.4	11,090	10,130	960	8.7
Klickitat	7,540	6,490	1,050	13.9	7,650	6,810	840	11.0	6,910	6,110	800	11.6
Lewis	25,780	23,570	2,210	8.6	24,990	22,830	2,160	8.6	24,840	22,740	2,100	8.5
Lincoln	3,990	3,780	210	5.3	3,960	3,730	230	5.8	4,170	3,970	200	4.8
Mason	16,130	15,060	1,070	6.6	15,620	14,680	940	6.0	13,630	12,780	850	6.2
Okanogan	14,900	12,890	2,010	13.5	15,130	13,350	1,780	11.8	14,720	12,900	1,820	12.4
Pacific	7,520	6,770	750	10.0	7,600	6,690	910	12.0	7,160	6,510	650	9.1
Pend Oreille	3,390	2,860	530	15.6	3,410	2,920	490	14.4	3,340	2,980	360	10.8
San Juan	4,870	4,650	220	4.5	4,910	4,720	190	3.9	4,660	4,430	230	4.9
Skagit	33,770	30,900	2,870	8.5	33,750	30,900	2,850	8.4	31,040	28,470	2,570	8.3
Skamania	2,480	2,060	420	16.9	2,450	2,120	330	13.5	2,140	1,780	360	16.8
Stevens	11,970	10,890	1,080	9.0	11,780	10,830	950	8.1	11,650	10,710	940	8.1
Wahkiakum	1,220	1,100	120	9.8	1,250	1,100	150	12.0	1,120	1,040	80	7.1
Walla Walla	23,820	22,000	1,820	7.6	23,310	21,740	1,570	6.7	23,000	21,250	1,750	7.6
Wenatchee Labor Area	39,630	35,850	3,780	9.5	38,390	34,960	3,430	8.9	39,230	36,100	3,130	8.0
Chelan County‡	26,430	24,010	2,420	9.2	25,710	23,410	2,300	8.9	26,370	24,170	2,200	8.3
Douglas County‡	13,200	11,840	1,360	10.3	12,680	11,550	1,130	8.9	12,860	11,930	930	7.2
Whitman	19,690	19,260	430	2.2	19,760	19,290	470	2.4	18,580	18,050	530	2.9

†Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data.
‡Estimates are determined by using the Population/Claims Share disaggregation methodology.
Note: Detail may not add due to rounding.

DECEMBER STATEWIDE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE = 5.7%

Estimated Average Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing and of Nonsupervisory Workers in Nonmanufacturing Activities, State of Washington

	Prelim Dec 89 Production Workers & Nonsupervisory Workers	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
		Dec 89	Nov 89	Dec 88	Dec 89	Nov 89	Dec 88	Dec 89	Nov 89	Dec 88
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES[1]	214,674	$504.46	$384.78	$512.12	40.1	33.0	41.4	$12.58	$11.66	$12.37
SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Lumber and Wood Products	34,832	$438.06	$433.78	$444.38	39.5	38.8	39.5	$11.09	$11.18	$11.25
Primary Metal Industries	9,899	$584.27	$584.27	$546.05	43.7	43.7	43.2	$13.37	$13.37	$12.64
Fabricated Metal Products	9,080	$487.08	$465.60	$468.99	39.6	40.0	40.5	$12.30	$11.64	$11.58
Machinery	22,268	$410.44	$392.03	$378.82	40.2	39.4	40.3	$10.21	$9.95	$9.40
Food and Kindred Products	24,164	$364.53	$357.27	$353.79	36.2	37.1	36.7	$10.07	$9.63	$9.64
Chemical and Allied Products	4,071	$643.87	$630.48	$684.54	43.3	42.6	39.5	$14.87	$14.80	$17.33
Transportation Equipment	62,644	$625.80	$239.94	$655.09	42.0	18.4	44.9	$14.90	$13.04	$14.59
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction	79,313	$644.03	$601.33	$592.59	37.4	35.9	36.4	$17.22	$16.75	$16.28
Wholesale and Retail Trade	330,869	$337.96	$327.68	$309.59	34.0	33.2	32.9	$9.94	$9.87	$9.41
(Does not include eating and drinking establishments)										

[1]Average hourly earnings for all manufacturing production workers reported in this table do not exactly reflect the official US Bureau of Labor Statistics definition of "wages." While these data still constitute a valid economic indicator series, they should not be used at this time for the negotiation of contracts whose monetary provisions may depend upon official US Bureau of Labor Statistics hourly earning data.